

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 841

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS CIUDAD JUAREZ 0364

FOR ARA/MEX

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: TERRORIST ACTION AT JUAREZ INDUSTRIAL PARK FACTORY,
SUBENSAMBLES ELECTRONICOS, S.A., MANUFACTURERS OF
SYLVANIA AND PHILCO TELEVISION CHASSIS

SUMARY: ON DECEMBER 8, 1976, AT APPROXIMATELY 7:30 A.M.,
A GROUP OF FIVE ARMED YOUTHS ENTERED SUBENSAMBLES ELECTRONICOS,
S.A., A SYLVANIA MANUFACTURING PLANT LOCATED IN THE JUAREZ
INDUSTRIAL PARK LOCATED IN CIUDAD JUAREZ. THE GROUP CLAIMED
TO BE MEMBERS OF THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION CALLED THE 23RD
OF SEPTEMBER COMMUNIST LEAGUE. THE PURPOSE OF THE INCIDENT
APPEARED TO BE TO DISTRIBUTE COMMUNIST PHAMPHLETS AND BROADCAST
TERRORIST SLOGANS TO THE WORKERS OF THE PLANT. DURING THE
INCIDENT, A MEXICAN NATIONAL EMPLOYEE OF THE COMPANY, JOSE RENE
HERNANDEZ FLORES, WAS SHOT IN THE HEAD AND LATER DIED AT THE
JUAREZ SOCIAL SECURITY HOSPITAL.

1. SUBENSAMBLES ELECTRONICOS, S.A., IS AN AMERICAN BORDER
PLANT WHICH EMPLOYS APPROXIMATELY 700 PEOPLE. IT MANUFACTURES
TELEVISION CHASSIS FOR SYLVANIA AND PHILCO. THE FACTORY WAS
ENTERED ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 8TH BY A GROUP OF FIVE
ARMED TERRORIST WHOSE PRIME PURPOSE APPEARED TO BE (ACCORDING
TO A FACTORY REPRESENTATIVE) THE CUTTING OF TELEPHONE WIRES
AND DISTRIBUTING PROPAGANDA LITERATURE. INDICATIONS ARE THAT
ALL WERE YOUNG, COLLEGE AGE, INDIVIDUALS. ONE AMERICAN
MANAGER WHO WAS PRESENT DURING INCIDENT WAS INSTRUCTED TO GET
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INTO HIS OFFICE AND STAY THERE.

2. JOSE RENE HERNANDEZ FLORES WAS DESCRIBED AS AN OUTSPOKEN TYPE INDIVIDUAL AND EVIDENTLY ANGERED ONE OF THE TERRORIST WHO SHOT HIM IN THE HEAD AS THEY WERE LEAVING THE FACTORY. HERNANDEZ LATER DIED IN A JUAREZ HOSPITAL.

3. LOCAL POLICE FORCES ARE CONTINUING AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT BUT AS OF THIS DATE, NO ARREST HAVE BEEN MADE. POLICE, ACCORDING TO THE DECEMBER 9TH ISSUE OF "EL FRONTERIZO" HAVE IDENTIFIED TWO OF THE TERRORISTS BUT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN LOCATED.

COMMENT: THE SYLVANIA COMPANY HAS BEEN HAVING LABOR PROBLEMS AT THEIR PLANT. THE LABOR UNION HAS SPLIT INTO FACTIONS, EACH OF WHICH IS VYING FOR CONTROL OF THE PLANT. ON NOVEMBER 27, THE FACTORY HAD AN INCIDENT WHERE MEMBERS OF ONE UNION CROSSED PICKET LINES OF THE OTHER TO REPORT TO WORK. REPRESENTATIVE OF SYLVANIA COMPANY BELIVES THIS UNREST MAY BE REASON THAT TERRORISTS WERE ATTRACTED TO SYLVANIA COMPANY TO DISTRIBUTE PROPAGANDA. SINCE ONE AMERICAN WAS PRESENT AND NOT MOLESTED, COMPANY BELIEVES THAT INCIDENT WAS NOT DIRECTED TOWARD AMERICAN EMPLOYEES.

THE COMPANY HAS TAKEN ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES, THE MAJOR ONE BEING THE ARMING OF ITS GUARDS WHO PREVIOUSLY DID NOT CARRY GUNS.
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